

U.S. Appln. No. 09/920,883
Reply to Office Action dated July 15, 2005

PATENT
450100-03386

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

a receiving means for receiving a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an additional signal[[,]];

a separating means for separating the program signal and the additional signal from said received signal[[,]];

a determining means for determining whether or not to output in accordance with said additional signal[[,]];.

an output signal generating means for generating the an output signal by using said separated program signal and additional signal when it is decided upon determination to output in accordance with said additional signal and for generating the output signal by using said separated program signal where it is determined not to output in accordance with said additional signal[[,]]; and

an outputting means for outputting information in accordance with said generated output signal;

wherein the additional signal is displayed simultaneously with the program signal inside or outside a window of a program corresponding to the program signal; and

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wherein a viewing fee is reduced by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an advertisement and the viewing fee is increased by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an additional service.

2. (Currently Amended) A The communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a transmitting means for transmitting log information indicating a log of decisions whether ~~or-not~~ to output in accordance with said additional signal to a transmitting side of said received signal.

3. (Currently Amended) A The communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said receiving means receives a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an advertisement signal.

4. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
a first communication apparatus for transmitting a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an additional signal; and
a second communication apparatus for receiving a signal transmitted by said first communication apparatus, said second communication apparatus comprising:

a receiving means for receiving the signal transmitted by said first communication apparatus[[],];

a separating means for separating the program signal and the additional signal from said received signal[[],];

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a determining means for deciding whether or not to output in accordance with said additional signal[[],];

an output signal generating means for generating an output signal by using said separated program signal and said additional signal when it is decided to output in accordance with said additional signal and generating an output signal by using said separated program signal where it is decided not to output in accordance with said additional signal[[],]; and

an outputting means for outputting information in accordance with said generated output signal;

wherein the additional signal is displayed simultaneously with the program signal inside or outside a window of a program corresponding to the program signal;
and

wherein a viewing fee is reduced by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an advertisement and the viewing fee is increased by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an additional service.

5. (Currently Amended) A The communication system as set forth in claim 4,
wherein

wherein said second communication apparatus ~~further has~~ includes a transmitting means for transmitting log information indicating a log of decisions of whether or not to output in accordance with said additional signal to the transmitting side of said received signal; and

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wherein said first communication apparatus charges the user of said first communication apparatus based on said log information received from said second communication apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) A The communication system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said first communication apparatus:

transmits a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an advertisement signal; and

performs processing for reducing a fee charged to the user of said second communication apparatus for transmission of said program signal when said advertisement signal was output in said second communication apparatus based on said log information received from said second communication apparatus.

7. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said first communication apparatus performs processing for reducing the fee charged to the user of said second communication apparatus for transmission of said program signal when said additional signal was output in said second communication apparatus based on said log information received from said second communication apparatus.

8. (Original) A communication system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said first communication apparatus charges the user of said second communication apparatus according to a condition determined in advance.

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9. (Currently Amended) A communication system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said first communication apparatus transmits a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an advertisement signal.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

an operating means operated by a user[[,]];
a transmitting means for issuing a request instructing the transmission of an additional signal in accordance with operation of said operating means by said user[[,]];
a receiving means for receiving a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an additional signal in accordance with said request[[,]];
a separating means for separating the program signal and the additional signal from said received signal[[,]];
an output signal generating means for generating an output signal by using said separated program signal and additional signal[[,]]; and
an outputting means for output information in accordance with said generated output signal;

wherein the additional signal is displayed simultaneously with the program signal inside or outside a window of a program corresponding to the program signal; and

wherein a viewing fee is reduced by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an advertisement and the viewing fee is increased by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an additional service.

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11. (Currently Amended) A communication method of a reception side of a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and an additional signal, comprising the steps of:

separating a program signal and an additional signal from said received signal[[,]];

determining whether or not to output in accordance with said additional signal [[,]];

generating an output signal by using said separated program signal and additional signal where it is decided to output in accordance with said additional signal[[,]];

generating an output signal by using said separated program signal when it is decided not to output in accordance with said additional signal[[,]]; and

outputting information in accordance with said generated output signal;

displaying the additional signal simultaneously with the program signal inside or outside a window of a program corresponding to the program signal;

reducing a viewing fee by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an advertisement; and

increasing the viewing fee by a predetermined amount when the displayed additional signal is an additional service.

12. (Currently Amended) A-The communication method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting log information indicating a log of decision of whether or not to output in accordance with said additional signal from said reception side to the transmission side; and

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charging said reception side user based on said log information on said transmission side.

13. (Currently Amended) A-The communication method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a signal comprised of a mix of a program signal and advertisement signal therein from said transmission side to said reception side; and

having said transmission side perform processing for reducing a fee charged to said reception side user for transmission of said program signal where said advertisement signal is output on said reception side based on said log information received from said reception side.

14. (Original) A communication method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising a step of processing for increasing the fee charged to said reception side user for transmission of said program signal on said transmission side when said additional signal is output on said reception side based on said log information received from said reception side.